

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20 through 22 have been amended to help further define the invention. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at page 7, line 15 through page 8, line 9.

New claims 25 through 34 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found, for example, at page 7, line 15 through page 8, line 9 and in original claims 23 and 24.

No new subject matter has been added.

Claims 20 through 34 are now pending.

Rejection of Claims 20 and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action noted that the language “altering” was problematic.

Claims 20 and 21 have been amended to distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention, thereby obviating the basis for this rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 22 and 23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Park et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,271,278, hereinafter “Park”. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reason.

The present invention pertains to

Park teaches an *crosslinked* hydrogels. All of Park’s teachings focus on crosslinking of various ethylenically unsaturated monomers to form a matrix that contains a “fast water-absorbing material”, noted as a disintegrant.

The present invention

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,271,278) as above.

This application now stands in allowable form and reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

No additional claim fees should be generated by this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with this paper to Deposit Account No. 04-1420.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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